

Connecting you with your railway



At East West Rail, we know that the train will only ever be one part of your journey, so we are working with local communities and their representatives to ensure that however you choose to start or complete your journey, your transition is as easy as possible.

How you get to and from the station is an important part of your journey. For some people this may mean having a convenient interchange with bus services or the right level of car parking available; for others a secure place to store a bike may open up a new way to get to the station. We recognise the need to consider all types of connecting journeys that people may need to make and, long term, are committed to creating and influencing healthier and more sustainable ways of travelling.

Working together with local communities, stakeholders and local authorities, we want to ensure that new and planned communities have the option to walk, cycle or use public transport to and from stations as a real alternative to the use of cars or motorbikes. This is what we refer to as active travel. In developing and building this railway we may even be able to create new active travel opportunities along with great train journeys.

The investment in East West Rail and the Oxford-Cambridge Arc is an opportunity not only to create new infrastructure, but to join up existing public transport, cycle ways and footways so that people can choose to be physically active on their way to and from stations. Active Travel is a vital element of a good customer experience and will also result in environmental and health benefits for local people.

We are focusing on the following key areas:

- **Planning** - minimising or avoiding any adverse effects on active travel modes and the landscape
- **First mile, last mile** - positively influencing how people make their journey to and from the station
- **Active travel** - maximising opportunities for railway customers and those who live locally.
- **Identifying best practice**

In 2020, we held initial discussions with active travel organisations to better understand the needs and priorities of transport users. This has helped to inform some early thinking on existing and potential active travel use for the station locations along each route alignment option within Connection Stage 3 between Bedford and Cambridge.

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We have also co-commissioned a study with [England's Economic Heartland](#) (a partnership of political and business leaders aiming to realise the region's economic potential) to identify the best combination of active travel, sustainable and different transport measures that are needed to maximise connectivity to and from the railway stations on the Marston Vale Line and improve customers' end to end journey times and experiences. This study will inform the next stages of station design for the Marston Vale Line stations and inform our active travel planning provision for the whole route.

Options could include new and improved walking and cycling routes, benefitting the wider community, new or altered bus services and on-demand services that could provide a door-to-door service between the station and a customer's destination, timed to connect with the train service.

The details of the options developed will be consulted on at the Statutory Consultation.

What we are doing next

- **Comprehensive planning work** - There will be significant planning work for each of the stations/local areas in the subsequent design stages, in collaboration with local planning authorities
- **Considering local connectivity issues** - As station designs develop, we will explore ways to minimise or offset potential local connectivity issues to create better travel connections and make sustainable journeys easier
- **Supporting integrated journeys** - We aim to provide an integrated journey booking system and fares structure that will enable people to book end-to-end journeys using multiple modes of transport and pay in a single transaction
- **Conducting research** - We will use the findings from our study with England's Economic Heartland to inform conversations with stakeholders and communities, and to inform the design of these stations to encourage active travel.
- **Working collaboratively** - We will liaise with potential third party organisations such as bike hire schemes and local transport providers, and explore emerging trends in connectivity solutions, to understand how we can maximise and help introduce viable travel connections for communities across the route
- **Maximising economic and social benefits** - We want to make sure the designs and interventions we put in place are affordable and represent the best value for the taxpayer.

Get in touch

You can email, call or write to us

By email: contact@eastwestrail.co.uk

By phone: 0330 1340067

By post: FREEPOST East West Rail